Medical Reserve Corps

Volunteers Protecting the Health of Virginia





Medical Reserve Corps

Central Shenandoah MRC Orientation

(online version)





Joining the MRC

- ★ STEP 1: Register for the Central Shenandoah MRC in the Virginia Volunteer Health System (VVHS) <u>www.vamrc.org/vvhs</u>
- ★ Upon doing so, and once your VVHS application is approved by the MRC Coordinator, you will be directed to complete this Orientation and required training, as described in an email you will receive.
- ★ You <u>must</u> take the MRC Orientation post-test (last slide) upon completion of this class. This allows the coordinator to verify that you completed the orientation.





Learning Objectives

- ★ Define the Medical Reserve Corps
- ★ Examine the mission of the MRC
- Describe the fundamentals of Public Health and Emergency Response
- Identify your role and responsibilities as an MRC volunteer
- Identify how our community will respond to a disaster or emergency





What is the MRC?

The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) is a national network of volunteers, organized locally to improve the health and safety of their communities. The MRC network comprises 991 community-based units and almost 200,000 volunteers located throughout the United States and its territories.

MRC volunteers include medical and public health professionals, as well as other community members without healthcare backgrounds. MRC units engage these volunteers to strengthen public health, improve emergency response capabilities and build community resiliency.

They prepare for and respond to natural disasters, such as wildfires, hurricanes, tornados, blizzards, and floods, as well as other emergencies affecting public health, such as disease outbreaks. They frequently contribute to community health activities that promote healthy habits.





MRC Program Administration

The Virginia MRC Program is administered by the Virginia Department of Health. It is sponsored by the Office of Emergency Preparedness and each local health district.

The MRC National program (Division of Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps) is housed in the Department of Health and Human Services, Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response's Office of Emergency Management.





MRC History & Facts

- ★ After "9/11", a surge of "What can I do to help?"

 http://kanehealth.com/PDFs/Emergency/MRC/HistoryMedicalReserveCorps.pdf
- ★ People not mentally/physically ready for austere conditions; became part of the problem
- \star Following 9/11, Pres. Bush in '02 Created the USA Freedom Corps
- ★ MRC was formed; now 982 units and 192,000 volunteers nationwide with 27 units and 9,000+ volunteers in Virginia!
- ★ In Virginia, supported with grants from CDC's Public Health Emergency Preparedness, ASPR's Hospital Preparedness, NACCHO and localities.





Partnerships/Stakeholders

- ★ FEDERAL AGENCY PARTNERS Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and Department of Health & Human Services (HHS)
- ★ STATE AGENCY PARTNERS Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM), Public Safety Departments, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), Virginia Department of Health (VDH housing organization)
- ★ NON-GOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERS Businesses, Universities, Hospitals, Clinics, Health Care Providers





MRC Concept Developed by the Office of the Surgeon General

Purpose of the MRC:

- Pre-identify medical and public health volunteers in the community; but you do not need to be a medical professional to serve
- ★ Credential and train volunteers in advance of emergencies to better prepare them to serve
- ★ Utilize them on an ongoing basis to strengthen the public health infrastructure

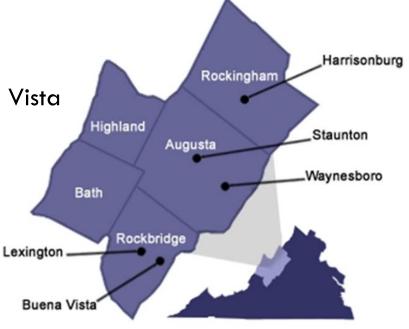




Central Shenandoah MRC

- ★ Formed in 2005
- ★ Covers the areas of:
 - Rockingham and Harrisonburg
 - Staunton, Augusta, Waynesboro
 - Rockbridge, Lexington, and Buena Vista
 - Bath County
 - Highland County

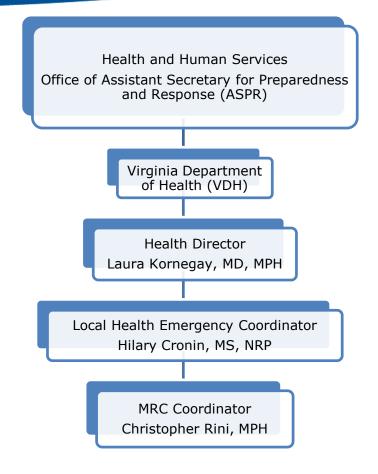
Urban, Suburban and Rural Areas *Population: approx. 280,000*







Central Shenandoah Medical Reserve Corps Organizational Chart







Mission Statement

The Central Shenandoah MRC's mission is to deploy affiliated, credentialed and trained volunteers to augment and assist established emergency response operations during large-scale emergencies, assist the health district in delivering public health interventions, and improve community emergency preparedness.





Large Scale Emergencies

- ★ Public Health Emergencies Ebola virus, Zika virus, pandemic Influenza
- Man-Made/Technological Disasters Dam collapse, radiation dispersion
- ★ Terrorist Attacks/Mass Shootings
- Natural Disasters Hurricanes, Tornadoes, Earthquakes, Wildfires, Floods





Disaster

A sudden and unexpected occurrence of a severity and magnitude that normally results in deaths, injuries, and property damage and cannot be managed through the routine procedures and resources of government.





Technological Disasters

Situations in which large numbers of people, property, infrastructure, or economic activity are directly and adversely affected by major industrial accidents, severe pollution incidents, nuclear accidents, air crashes, major fires or explosions.





Terrorism

The unlawful use or threatened use of force or violence against people or property to coerce or intimidate governments or societies, often to achieve political, religious, or ideological objectives.





Bioterrorism







- ★ **Bioterrorism** is terrorism involving the intentional release or dissemination of biological agents. These agents are bacteria, viruses, or toxins, and may be in a naturally occurring or a human-modified form.
- ★ Biological Warfare (BW) also known as germ warfare is the deliberate use of disease-causing biological agents such as bacteria, viruses, fungi, or biological toxins, to kill or incapacitate humans, animals or plants as an act of war.





- ★ Category A Diseases/ Agents considered the highest risk agents. Much of the biodefense research effort is directed at these agents.
 - Anthrax (Bacillus anthracis)
 - Botulism (Clostridium botulinum toxin)
 - Plague (Yersinia pestis)
 - Smallpox (variola major)
 - Tularemia (Francisella tularensis)
 - Viral Hemorrhagic Fever (Ebola)





- ★ Category B Agents second highest priority for the CDC.
 - Brucellosis (Brucella species)
 - Food safety threats (e.g., Salmonella species, E coli Staphylococcus aureus)
 - Glanders (Burkholderia mallet)
 - Q fever (Coxiella burnetii)
 - Ricin toxin from Ricinus communis (castor beans)
 - Staphylococcal enterotoxin B
 - Typhus (Rickettsia prowazekii)
 - Viral encephalitis, EEE
 - Water supply threats (e.g., Vibrio cholerae, Cryptosporidium parvum)





★ Anthrax

- 3 forms -coetaneous, inhalational, GI
- Infective dose is low a few spores
 - 2001 attack through the US postal service weapons grade high spore concentration, uniform particle size, low electrostatic charge to reduce clumping
- 22 confirmed or suspect cases
- 11 inhalational (5 died)
- 11 coetaneous (7 confirmed and 4 suspect)





★Inhalational Anthrax

- Incubation period 2-60 days
- Fever, malaise, cough, mild chest discomfort; possible short recovery phase then onset of dyspnea, diaphoresis, stridor, cyanosis, shock
- Death within 24-36 hours after onset of severe symptoms (case fatality = 100% if untreated)
- Hemorrhagic meningitis in about 50%
- Wide mediastinum on chest x-ray





Large Outbreaks of Communicable Disease

- ★ Pandemic influenza
- **★** SARS
- ★ Meningitis
- ★ Food borne illness
- **★** Tuberculosis
- ★ Ebola (2014)
- ★ Zika (2016) spread by mosquito, pregnancy, sexual contact, blood transfusion











Pressing Public Health & Medical Needs

- ★ Infectious Disease Emergency Response investigating and containing communicable disease outbreaks
- Mass Prophylaxis distribution of potentially lifesaving medicine and/or supplies
- Community Outreach health education, conducting community health assessments/disaster assessments
- Mass Care medical support for shelters; functional and access needs support (FANS)





What is Public Health?

- ★ Scientific research
- ★ Educating the public about health
- ★ Vaccinating children and adults to prevent the spread of disease
- ★ Preventing addiction reducing prevalence of alcohol & tobacco use
- ★ Setting safety standards to protect workers
- ★ Developing school nutrition programs
- ★ Tracking disease outbreaks
- ★ Identify disparities in health and risk





What is Public Health?

- ★ Public health promotes and protects the health of people and the communities where they live, learn, work and play.
- ★ While a doctor treats people who are sick, those of us working in public health try to prevent people from getting sick or injured in the first place. We also promote wellness by encouraging healthy behaviors.





What is Public Health?

Central Shenandoah Health District Services

- **★** Family Planning
- **★** Immunizations
- ★ Pregnancy Tests
- ★ Sexual Health (STI Testing)
- ★ TB Screening

- **★** WIC
- ★ Environmental Health
- ★ Communicable Disease Investigation (Epidemiology)





Fundamentals of Public Health

- ★ Prevent epidemics and the spread of disease
- ★ Protect against environmental hazards
- ★ Prevent injuries

- ★ Promote and encourage healthy behaviors
- ★ Respond to public health emergencies
- ★ Assure quality and accessibility of health services





CSHD Emergency Operations Plan

The all hazards Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) establishes the **framework** and **guidance** to insure an effective system of health and medically related emergency management is in place.

- ★ **Assessment:** Perform assessments of the emergency's impact on the district's capability to perform required services, damage to health and medical infrastructure of the community and effect upon people within the impact area.
- ★ Policy Development: Establish fundamental policies, program strategies and assumptions defining management of emergencies affecting this district, its citizens and visitors.
- ★ Assurance: Reduce vulnerability of the citizens and visitors to loss of life, injury or illness resulting from natural, technological or manmade emergencies, by preparing staff to carry out prompt and efficient response and recovery activities.





Public Health in Emergencies

Likewise, local governments, public health care departments, and hospitals have their separate EOPs. Each responding agency works together to create a community response.





Public Health in Emergencies

- Coordinates medical, public health, mental health, and emergency medical services (Essential Support Function #8)
- ★ Conducts active disease surveillance and investigations
- Establishes procedures or mobile clinics for mass prophylaxis, vaccination and pharmaceuticals
- Support mass care/shelter operations (medical needs and functional & access needs support)
- Implements quarantine/isolation measures upon authorization from the State Health Commissioner
- ★ Conducts water and food safety inspections





Who are MRC volunteers?





They are Healthcare Professionals

- ★ Physicians
- ★ Physician Assistants
- ★ Nurse Practitioners
- ★ RNs & LPNs
- ★ Nurses Aides
- Pharmacists
- ★ Mental Health Professionals
- ★ Dentists





- ★ Veterinarians
- ★ Vet. Techs, and Assistants





They are Support Volunteers

- Teachers
- **★** Clergy
- ★ Social Workers
- ★ Interpreters
- ★ Office & IT
- ★ Telecommunications
- ★ Anyone who is willing to volunteer!







CSMRC in Action!



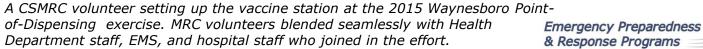
A CSMRC volunteer prepares to give a flu shot at a POD exercise Augusta County.





CSMRC in Action!





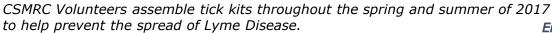


VIRGINIA

Protecting You and Your Environment

CSMRC in Action!

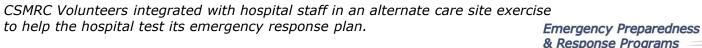






CSMRC in Action!







Protecting You and Your Environment

MRC Strike Teams

Four capabilities-based teams currently in development

- ★ Functional and Access Needs Support non-medical support for people with disabilities and other needs that impact ability to access public services, in emergency shelters and other operations. Helping people with stable medical conditions maintain their health in austere conditions.
- Mass Prophylaxis Operations pandemic and bioterrorism preparedness and response, exercised with annual flu Point-of-Dispensing (POD) "clinics"
- Community Outreach community health education, community health assessments (CHA), emphasis on health equity, focus on population health
- ★ Infectious Disease Emergency Response free epidemiology training will be provided to volunteers, who will be trained to support the health district Epi Response Team.





Volunteering with the Central Shenandoah MRC





Volunteer Responsibilities

- ★ Take required training to become prepared to serve, as your schedule permits
- ★ Volunteer time, service, expertise
- Act as MRC Ambassador/Recruiter when serving you are the face of MRC
- Keep information up-to-date for VVHS alerts
- Take steps to prepare for disasters/emergencies, prepare yourself physically and mentally to be involved in an emergency response
- Know the MRC policies (visit CSMRC website)
- Agree to screening, references, credentials and background checks
- Report your volunteer hours to CSMRC (or write them on the sign-in sheet)





MRC Activation in Emergencies

- ★ MRC requests for volunteers are received in the Health Dept. Operations Center and reviewed by the District Health Director or Planner
- ★ Approved (pre-trained, pre-credentialed) volunteers are alerted by the MRC coordinator via emergency phone alert and requested for specific duties





DO NOT SELF DEPLOY

Do not respond to any emergency unless requested and officially deployed by MRC. If you do, you will forfeit your liability coverage, be removed from the MRC unit, and be held liable for any actions.





MRC Activation in Emergencies

- ★ If phone lines are down, listen to media announcements for how to serve/where to report to
- ★ You must be officially deployed by MRC in order to serve
- ★ You must follow instructions given by MRC
- ★ You must follow instructions of the on-site Supervisor you are assigned to by MRC





Training

- ★ Training is the gateway to serving and builds competent, confident, prepared volunteers
- You are a local asset in an emergency
- ★ **Required training** in order to deploy (these are all organized under one Training Plan, which is covered on **slide 51**):
 - Central Shenandoah MRC Orientation (you are here now)
 - ICS-100
 http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/is/is100b.asp
 - ICS-700
 http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/is/is700a.asp
 - Introduction to Mental Health Preparedness https://www.train.org/virginia/course/1048051/
- ★ Medical Professionals must maintain CPR/AED/First Aid credentials
- ★ If you have completed these courses, please email the certificate(s) to the CSMRC coordinator Christopher.rini@vdh.Virginia.gov.





Training

- ★ Some training is on-line while other training is live/classroom
- ★ You will receive VVHS alerts to your email address for other training opportunities as they become available.
- ★ You must have an email account to receive alerts for training (and nonemergency service opportunities).
- Please follow instructions in the alert to register for training.
- ★ If you register, please mark your calendar, you will be expected at the training, otherwise please email Christopher.rini@vdh.Virginia.gov to cancel. Reminders are not always provided.
- ★ If ever in doubt, you can call 434-566-7357 to check the time and date of a training event. Leave a voicemail, and I will call you back.





Training TRIVITGINIA Prepared. On track. Online.

The TRAIN Virginia learning management system is designed to improve public health workforce and MRC volunteer competencies and to provide access to Virginia and national public health educational sources.

http://va.train.org





Training

TRAIN-Virginia allows you to:

- ★ Pursue the training needed to be confident in the field on your own time
- ★ Search for on-site or distance learning training opportunities outside of CSMRC.
- * Register online for training, conferences, meetings, etc. that interest you.





Training

How to set up a VA-TRAIN account





Setting Up Your TRAIN Account

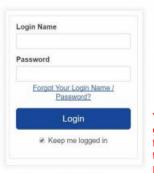
Your ability work within TRAIN depends on you having a TRAIN account. Here we'll take a look at how you must set up your account.

Step 1. Access the TRAIN Learning Network

It's obvious, of course, but before you can get started with TRAIN, you first have to access it!

Use your preferred internet browser and enter https://www.train.org into the URL address bar.

Press 'Enter' on your keyboard and you will be directed to the TRAIN Learning Network.



Step 2. > Log In

If you already have a TRAIN account, enter your login name and then your password and click "Login".

If you do not have a TRAIN account, click the 'Create an Account' link to create one.

You may already have a TRAIN account that was generated when you signed up for VVHS. Try this step first, using your primary email from your VVHS account to try to retrieve your TRAIN username and set up a new password.

Forgotten Account?

If you've forgotten your login credentials, click the 'Forgot Your Login Name/Password' link and you will be directed to TRAIN's account recovery page. On this page, you will



enter your email address and click the 'Submit button.' Your login name, along with a link to a page for you to create a new password, will be emailed to you.



Step 3. > Account Creation

- Create your login name. Your login name must be unique (with letters and numbers only), and you must enter a minimum of four characters.
- Your password must contain at least six characters with at least one capital letter and one number.
- Now enter your work email address. If you don't have one, enter your school or personal email address.
- 4. Next, enter your first and last name.
- 5. Now select your time zone.
- Enter your work zip/postal code. If you don't have one, enter your school or personal zip/postal code instead.
- The final process is to agree to all TRAIN policies.
 It is recommended that you read through the policies. Be mindful that you cannot use TRAIN until you agree to the policies.

After agreeing, click the 'Create Account' button to log into the TRAIN Learning Network!

Affiliate Site

Upon logging into TRAIN, you may be presented with a message that you are being redirected to another portal. This prompt appears because your account is associated with a different TRAIN Affiliate group. If you are associated with more than one TRAIN Affiliate group, you can choose which site to enter by selecting the drop-down menu. Once you have selected a TRAIN Affiliate group, click the 'Go' button to be directed to your desired TRAIN Affiliate site.

Training

More resources on how to use TRAIN.org

https://www.train.org/tutorials/





Northwest MRC Volunteer Training Plan







necessary knowledge, skills, and awareness to support their local health district in a public health emergency or disaster.

Utilizing the competencies makes cooperation between MRC units, health departments, and partner agencies more efficient by providing a "common language" and mission in which units can communicate their volunteers' capacities to each other and to

partner organizations while working to support the public health response.

Training

★ Provide proof that you have taken a training class via a certificate upon completion. **Keep a record of the training you have taken in a printable or emailable, portable transcript.** If possible, record the hours it took for you to complete the training.





Volunteer Identification & Supplies

- ★ MRC ID Badge—Printed and mailed to you upon completion of required training and successful background check.
- ★ Driver's License/Government-issued photo ID
- **★**Medical License
- ★CPR card, if you have one
- ★ Go-Bag if necessary, but bring your own personalized bag





Liability insurance may be provided by the department utilizing their services to volunteers to the same extent as may be provided by the department to its paid staff.

Volunteers in state and local service, including, but not limited to, any person who serves in a Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) unit or on a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) established under VirginiaCORPS, shall enjoy the protection of the Commonwealth's sovereign immunity to the same extent as paid staff.





Code of Virginia 44-146.23 (Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Services and Disaster Law of 2000)

MRC volunteers while engaged in emergency service and activities should be immune from liability for negligence caused when providing medical and health services so long as they are doing so under supervision of VDH. Emergency includes the threat of an occurrence that could cause substantial harm, preparing for disasters, and the prevention if injury.

Additionally, during an emergency, those volunteers who are licensed or certified to render health care services should receive immunity from negligence when they gratuitously render aid using their skills.

https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title44/chapter3.2/section44-146.23/





Code of Virginia 2.2-3600 et seq., (State Government Volunteers Act)

•MRC volunteers may enjoy the protection of the Commonwealth's sovereign immunity if they are deemed to be a volunteer of VDH

Code of Virginia 8.01-225.01

 May provide protection from liability in cases where a provider is alleged to have abandoned his own patients while helping out in a declared emergency





Code of Virginia 8.01-225.02

May provide certain liability protection for health care providers during declared disasters. In the absence of gross negligence or willful misconduct, any health care provider who responds to a disaster shall not be liable for any injury or wrongful death of any person arising from the delivery or withholding of health care when (i) a state or local emergency has been or is subsequently declared in response to such disaster, and (ii) the emergency and subsequent conditions caused a lack of resources, attributable to the disaster, rendering the health care provider unable to provide the level or manner of care that otherwise would have been required in the absence of the emergency and which resulted in the injury or wrongful death at issue.





Virginia Code 8.01-225 et seq., the "Good Samaritan Act" MRC volunteers (and others) should be immune from liability for harm caused when providing emergency care to ill or injured persons at the scene of an accident, fire or any life-threatening emergency.

Federal Law: Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act (PREP Act) Pub. L. 109-148

- If the MRC's activities relate to the dispensing of drugs or devices in an emergency situation, the PREP Act might apply.
- During a public health emergency, the Secretary of HHS may appoint MRC volunteers as intermittent disaster response personnel, which grants them the legal protections when they are working within the scope of their Federal employment as members of the MRC federal deployment cadre.





Liability/Risk Management

- Virginia Medical Reserve Corps volunteers are covered by VDH's Risk Management policy for daily public health activities:
 - When under the direction of VDH and abiding by VDH volunteer policies(Virginia Code 2.2-1837 and 2.2-1840)
 https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/2.2-1837/ and
 https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/2.2-1840/
 - This includes up to \$2 million in Tort/Medical Malpractice Liability and up to \$10,000 for medical payment claims.





Worker's Compensation

In most cases MRCs would currently **not fall under workers compensation in the**Commonwealth. However, coverage could be provided if:

- ★ A locality decided to provide MRC workers compensation after adoption of a resolution pursuant to VA. Code 65.2-101.
- ★ This would apply only to MRCs acting in the same locality as the local government. This is not the case currently in some areas of Virginia.
- ★ VDEM (Virginia Dept of Emergency Management) requests MRC assistance and the MRCs are responding at the request of VDEM.
- ★ MRCs would then be deemed to be employees of VDEM for purpose of the Virginia Workers Compensation Act and could be eligible for Workers Compensation. VA Code 65.2-101 (1) (m) (1)





Worker's Compensation

If MRCs are deployed by Virginia under an EMAC (Emergency Management Assistance Compact —www.emacweb.org):

- ★ Their coverage would be as described under the Workers Compensation Act's definition of —employee Workers Compensation as provided when members of the Office of the Civilian Medical Reserve Corps Federal Deployment cadre are responding to a federal response
- ★ In most conditions, with the exception of an EMAC deployment, when you are volunteering as an MRC volunteer, you are NOT covered for Worker's Compensation. That said, we will do everything we can to make your safety our top priority during volunteer deployments.





HIPAA for MRC Volunteers

As a volunteer performing duties for the Virginia Department of Health, you will have access to the protected health information (PHI) of our patients. The fact that an individual is or was a patient of the VDH is PHI.





HIPAA for MRC Volunteers

It is illegal for you to use or disclose PHI outside the scope of your student/volunteer duties for the Virginia Department of Health.

Volunteers who violate HIPAA will face legal consequences and fines.





MRC Volunteers are Needed!

For a large-scale disaster, CSHD would need up to 700 volunteers. Currently we have ~ 137 .





MRC Volunteers are Needed Now

- Do you know a potential volunteer?
- Caring, committed, reliable, and responsible, just like you?
- Share MRC information
- ★ Sign up at:

www.vamrc.org/vvhs





Your Next Steps

- ★ Read the MRC Policies/FAQ that are posted on www.vamrc.org
- **★** Take the MRC Orientation Post-Test (last slide)
- ★ Complete FEMA courses ICS-100 and ICS-700
- ★ Be Prepared & Aware; Create your Family Emergency Plan
- ★ Determine your volunteer interests/track; Get to know your MRC, and network by serving
- ★ Keep your contact information updated for critical alerts
- ★ Ask a friend or family member to join MRC, and serve together





Contact Information

Christopher Rini,

Medical Reserve Corps Coordinator

Central Shenandoah Health District

1426 N. Augusta St.

Staunton, VA 24401

Main: 540-332-7830 | Mobile: 434-566-7357 (preferred)

VAMRC Website: http://www.vamrc.org

VVHS (to register/edit your info): www.vamrc.org/vvhs

TRAINVirginia: http://va.train.org





Thank you

Thank you for choosing the Medical Reserve Corps!

We look forward to serving with you to *Help Protect the Health* of *Virginia!*

Please proceed to the post course test (next slide)





Post Course Test

Click https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SX2HCP2 to take the post-orientation test. This step is required in order for you to become a volunteer.

Please note you will be redirected to the VAMRC website upon clicking the 'submit' button.

Upon submission of the test, <u>you must</u> make an appointment to come in to the Staunton Augusta Health Department to complete a background check authorization form, and have a photo taken for an ID. You will be mailed the ID badge upon successful completion of your background investigation. Call 434-566-7357 to schedule an appointment.



